



EASTWOOD UNITING CHURCH

14 - 16 Lakeside Road, Eastwood

30 August 2020

**WELCOME TO ALL WHO ARE WITH US FOR THE FIRST TIME.
MAY YOU EXPERIENCE GOD'S PRESENCE AS WE FIND DIFFERENT WAYS
TO WORSHIP AND BE COMMUNITY**

- 30th August 8.00am Worship **service via Zoom** John Court
"The burning bush (Exodus 3: 1-15)
and our Life and Witness and Mission Study?"
- 9.30am Worship Nicholas Fried
Matthew 16: 21-28
'A *stumbling block*' (Peter at the crossroads)
一个绊脚石 (彼得在十字路口)
흔들거리는 블록 (십자로에 있는 베드로)
**Sermon and Bible reading audio available on
website. Youtube link for reading, prayers and
sermon** <https://youtu.be/jCx5zv9WkoA>
- 2.00pm Chinese Service online Wechat group
- 6th September 8.00am Worship **service via Zoom**
Season of Creation – Forest Sunday Nicholas Fried
- 9.30am Worship Forest Sunday Nicholas Fried
Genesis 2: 4-22 and Psalm 96.
'*The trees in the forest will shout for joy*' (Psalm 96:12)
森林周日 森林中的树木将会为主欢呼 (诗篇96:12)
나무심는 일요일
숲속의 나무들은 기쁨으로 소리칠 것이다 (시편 96:12)
- 2.00pm Chinese Service online Wechat group

欢迎所有第一次来参加崇拜的朋友们。

希望你们在和我们一起崇拜的时候感受到上帝的存在。

유나이팅 교회에 처음 방문해주신 모든 분들을 환영합니다. 함께 예배하는 가운데 살아계신 주님을 만나고 돌아갈 수 있길 소망합니다.

WORSHIP RESOURCES Bible readings and sermons for Sunday are available by audio, on the church's website along with a video link. You can go to Youtube and type 'Eastwood Uniting Church' in the search bar to find the current worship service and past weeks' services.

Printed copies will be delivered to those without internet access.

The Assembly website has a list of livestreaming and online worship services. <https://assembly.uca.org.au/resources/ministry-during-covid-19>

Updates on services and news are also available on the Presbytery website: <https://sydneycentralcoastpresbytery.uca.org.au>

RE-OPENING CHURCH PREMISES - SAFETY PLAN Synod has stipulated that **every group** that either meets in the name of Eastwood Uniting Church (including Bible studies in a home) or uses the Church premises for any activity, **must provide Church Council with a safety plan** that complies with regulations and guidelines set out by both the NSW Government and the NSW/ACT Synod. Chris Wakefield has kindly agreed to be our contact person with Synod on behalf of Church Council. **ALL** groups are required to complete and submit a safety plan to Church Council. Safety plans will be forwarded to Synod and Presbytery for review. Complying with all the current regulations is very complex and expensive. Until further notice the Church buildings remain closed. More information about Synod's updates is available on our website under "other resources".

CONGRATULATIONS to Sarah (Tennyson and Elsa's daughter) on her engagement to Tom.

PASTORAL CARE. Please continue to keep connected with each other by phone, email, and text.

'PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS'

Merrill B
Chris D

Jason M

Margaret S

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Only those activities that have a Church Council approved safety plan are able to use the church premises.

SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SRE). Due to Covid-19 restrictions, none of our regular SRE teachers is available for weekly lessons at either Eastwood PS or Denistone East PS. If you are able to assist until restrictions change, please contact the office.

SOCIAL ZOOM each Friday at 7.30pm Janine organises a 'Social Catchup' on Zoom. It is a very relaxed meeting. If you would like to join please contact the church office for the Zoom log in.

2PM CHINESE SERVICE use WeChat to maintain relationships and support. All welcome, please call Tennyson 0411896274 for any inquiry.

NEW WEBSITE for the Assembly - Uniting.Church. The new site aims for a fresher, more engaging presentation of our ministries, as well as a more accessible explanation of our Uniting Church approach to Christian faith, belief and practice. Resources from the old website can be found at <http://resources.uca.org.au>

SOCIAL WEEDING AT THE CHURCH. If you have a bit of time on **Thursday** afternoon (3rd Sept) from 1.30pm Stephen Kemp and a few others are planning to spend a couple of hours chatting and weeding the lawn and garden beds at the front of the church. Come and enjoy sitting in the sunshine catching up and relaxing with light weeding.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Julie Byron	Today	30th August
Priyani Mahadevan	Tuesday	1st September
Helen Ramsay	Wednesday	2nd September
Gwen Davis	Friday	4th September

During this time of the church's closure, many thanks for the thoughtfulness of people who have found ways to deposit funds to the congregation's bank account, or sent cheques to the PO Box.

Your generosity and caring are very helpful at this time.

13th August 2020 Church Council Zoom Meeting Update

- Worship: A COVID19Safe Plan now approved for the 8am and 2pm church services in the worship space, however members of both worship groups do not currently wish to return to worship on site. Online worship to continue at present for all services and activities. New information or changes to current arrangements regarding use of the church premises will be provided in the newsletter.
- Sunday School lessons and activities: Continuing online on Sundays for youth and younger age groups. Contact Janine Joannou or the office for access to the online meetings.
- Chinese speaking resource worker: Workplan for Tennyson for remainder of 2020 adopted by Chinese Worker Umbrella Group meeting on 14th July and endorsed by CC. Update on utilization of funding grant to be sent to Lane Cove, UME, Presbytery and Uniting Resources.
- Pastoral concerns: EUC carers and Nicholas are maintaining regular contact with church members. Please contact your carer or Lesley Bradbury. Friday zoom chat meetings run by Janine Joannou, contact the office for details.
- Communications: Newsletter to be emailed to members each week.
- Continuing Education Umbrella Group: Current programme of activities completed in August. Future activities to be advised via the weekly newsletter.
- Life and Witness Consultation: The Presbytery Report on EUC has been received and has been published in the EUC weekly newsletter. Awaiting Presbytery to appoint their members to join EUC members (Janine Joannou, Catherine Leal, Edward Lin, John Brunton, Phil Looby, Emma Jarvis) on the Joint Nominating Committee to commence process to call a new Minister for EUC. Supply Minister to be sought for EUC from December 2020.
- Presbytery August 19th meeting cancelled.
- Property: Lakeside Road: All repairs from storm damage are now completed and no leakages to date. Inverter of the Solar panels is now working to enable use of the power we generate.

Continued next page

Automatic floor-standing sanitising stations are now installed inside the external entrances of the Main Hall, East Room, Drummond foyer and main entrance.

Acacia Street: New contracts being prepared for sale of church and hall site.

Vera Street: manse bathroom shower to be replaced due to leakage.

- Community use of Lakeside Road premises. Following approval of their activity specific COVID19 safety plans, a number of users (including CCA) have resumed some activities (with reduced numbers) and these are being monitored to ensure compliance with their approved plans.

- Tertiary Chaplaincy Strategy Committee (formerly Macquarie University Chaplaincy)

A half-day pre-planning meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 25 August.

- Next Church Council meeting on Thursday 17th September 2020.

WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD 3 August to 8 November is available.

Please contact the office Tues, Thurs, or Friday to get a copy. Cost \$5.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE. If you would like to prepare prayers for the news sheet, the office would love to hear from you.

THIS WEEK'S PRAYERS

Matthew 16: 21-28 'A stumbling block' (Peter at the crossroads)

God, as we reflect on today's Scripture, we are shocked by Jesus' strong words to rebuke Peter so soon after he commended Peter for his declaration that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. Then we realise that after that declaration, Jesus had begun teaching his disciples that he would suffer and even be put to death. But Peter didn't get it. It didn't fit with his ideas, and the ideas of the Jews, about what the promised Messiah would do.

God, we're sorry – too often we don't get it either. We're sorry that our lives and attitudes are too much shaped by what the world values, and not by what you have taught us. We forget that you came not to be served, but to serve and give your life.

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We're sorry when our lives are a stumbling block to the faith of others. We're sorry when our lives are a stumbling block to your mission in the world.

Loving God help us to follow your teaching to serve others. Help us to seek for your presence in the least, rather than living according to what the world values. Help us to forget our own material preoccupations and put our energies into your mission and vision, what you want for the world.

God, we worry about the coronavirus, yet we've heard that many of us are becoming careless about observing social distancing and the hygiene practises that are so important. Help us, and everyone, to be much more conscientious.

In this time of sorrow and worry, may we know Christ's steadfast, enduring love, a love that gives us courage to care for our neighbours, and reach out in ways that strengthen our communities.

We pray for the people of the world who are being hit most by COVID-19 – the least developed nations, and poverty-stricken communities where people don't have access to clean water and soap. May the Australian Government and governments of other first world nations increase their support for the most disadvantaged and worst-hit parts of the world.

Here in Australia, we pray particularly for residents of Victoria and for people living in aged care facilities. We pray for people living in Australia who have no income - for international students caught here and unable to return home, and for people seeking asylum and refugees.

Compassionate God, we pray for all people experiencing psychological distress. Tuesday this week is World Emotional Trauma Awareness Day and that reminds us that the isolation required under COVID-19 restrictions has been traumatic for many people. Help those struggling with mental illness in its various forms and bless those who want to help them. Hear the cries of those experiencing abuse in their homes, silenced by privacy concerns or ignorance of how they could be helped.

Bless those we know and love who are ill, grieving, or struggling today, for reasons that may have nothing to do with the pandemic. May they know your comforting, strengthening presence.

Continued next page

We pray for Nicholas, Tennyson, Esther, and the Church Council. Guide and help them in their leadership. Help all in our congregational community to care for each other with your grace and kindness.

We pray for your worldwide church. Equip churches everywhere to bear your light to the world.

Today, as part of the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we pray for the nations and churches of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo.

We are thankful for:

- the beauty, natural resources, wildlife and different cultures in these countries
- the produce that small farmers continue to grow amid environmental and other hardships
- the spiritual vitality and growth of the churches and how they are cooperating with each other and those of other faiths and practices
- the relative peace and stability that prevails after long years of civil war and political struggle.

We pray for:

- more democratic governments that are free of corruption and that prioritize what the people most need
- those working to alleviate the poverty, illiteracy and hunger that so many in these countries still experience
- churches faithfully bringing the gospel to, and serving, all people with greater respect for how those of other faiths express their spirituality
- emotional and physical healing, and restoring hope in people who are victims of conflict, disease and human rights abuses

God, we pray for ourselves that we may follow you more closely, forget ourselves, and carry whatever cross you call us to bear.

Accept our prayers, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Note: To find out more about the nations and churches for whom we pray today in the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, go to <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/prayer-cycle/benin-cote-d-ivoire-togo> and click on 'More on churches in'. The map on this site for Togo is incorrect. Its correct location is in Africa between Ghana and Benin

***Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for
ever. Amen.***

COME AND FOLLOW ME

All Together Whatever 495

*If you choose to be my disciples,
if you plan to follow where I lead,
take up your cross and deny your very selves.
Then come and follow me.*

- 1 God has anointed me
that I may hear the cries of all who are oppressed
I know their doubt and fear. I know their pain.
Who will release them, give them rest?
- 2 My life is emptied out for those made low.
I bear their burden and their strife.
I win them victory upon a tree.
Who will give comfort, bring them life?
- 3 The one who saves my life will raise me high.
God is my help, God is my shield.
Called forth from death to life, you too shall rise.
In you the cross will be revealed.
- 4 If you would save your life, lose it in me.
Take up my cross, take up my name.
Release the burdened ones, set captives free.
Be faithful 'til I come again.

*If you choose to be my disciples,
if you plan to follow where I lead,
take up your cross and deny your very selves.
Then come and follow me.*

Francis Patrick O'Brien

NOT ASHAMED

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T0Y0rbEA36E&feature=youtu.be>

chorus:

*Not ashamed to love,
not ashamed to serve
not ashamed to be following Jesus.
Put myself aside for my Lord who died.
not ashamed to be following Jesus.*

Lord your call is strong
to follow you along a
not so easy road.
Are we prepared to die?
Are we prepared to love?
Will we carry a heavier load?
Not ashamed to love ...

To forget ourselves and
trust in someone else:
that's the cost of life in You.
As we give You all
we shall gain much more.
It's the road You call us to.
Not ashamed to love ...

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BEAUTIFUL LORD (The Potter's hand)

Source volume 2: 640

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NR0vhnu51Uc>

Beautiful Lord, wonderful Saviour,
I know for sure
all of my days are held in your hand,
crafted into your perfect plan.

You gently call me into your presence,
guiding me by your Holy Spirit;
teach me, dear Lord, to live all of my life through your eyes.

I'm captured by your holy calling,
set me apart,
I know you're drawing me to yourself;
lead me, Lord, I pray.

Chorus:

Take me, mould me, use me, fill me;
I give my life to the Potter's hand.
Call me, guide me, lead me walk beside me;
I give my life to the Potter's hand.

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Questions to ponder

沉思一些问题

숙고해야할 질문들

If you had been Peter, how would you have responded to Jesus' rebuke?

如果你是彼得，你会如何回应耶稣的指责？

당신이 베드로 였다면 예수님의 힐난에 어떻게 반응을 했을까?

What has been/ is a stumbling block for your faith journey?

你信仰旅程中的绊脚石是什么？

당신의 믿음 생활에 무엇이 흔들리는 장애물 이었나/인가?

Who has been a good example of Christian discipleship for you, and why?

谁是你的基督教门徒的良好榜样，为什么？

당신에게 누가 기독교 제자도의 좋은 예가 되었나? 그리고 왜?

What would you identify as the most important aspects of your discipleship?

你认为你门徒生涯中的最重要的方面是什么？

당신은 무엇이 가장 당신의 제자도에 중요한 면으로 규정하는가?

What makes “losing one’s life to gain it” so counterintuitive?

是什么使得“失去生命才能获得生命”如此违反常理？

“ 그것을 얻고자 하기 위해서 자신의 인생을 버리는 것”을 무엇이 그렇게 상식에 반하게 만드는가?

God promises to be with us. In what ways have you experienced the assurance of this promise?

上帝承诺与我们同在。你以什么方式体验过此承诺的保证？

하나님은 당신과 함께 하신다 약속합니다. 어떻게 당신은 이 약속의 확신을 경험했는가?

What have you found helpful/ unhelpful about the background and context of the gospel according to Matthew?

你在马太福音的背景和上下文中发现了什么有益/无益的东西？

마태복음의 배경이나 문맥에서 당신은 어떠한 도움이 되는/도움이 안되는 것을 찾았나?

We are all ministers in Christ's name

Minister:	Phone:	Email:
Rev Nicholas Fried	0415 252 550 9874 2089	nicholas@euc.org.au
Tennyson Chan 陳志偉牧師	0411 896 274	tennyson@euc.org.au
Esther Shih 莊娜麗傳道	0411 128 069	
Office:	9858 5732	secretary@euc.org.au
P O Box 324 Eastwood 2122		
Website: www.euc.org.au		

Please send all notices to the Office



Mission: Witness to the gospel and spread the good news of Jesus Christ in word and action.

Vision: Engage and connect with our diverse community through active discipleship.

Values: Visible 可見的 비전을 가질 수가 있고
 Inclusive 包容的 포괄적이 될 수 있고
 Relevant 相關的 적절하고
 Active 積極的 역동적이 될 것이다

LECTIONARY READINGS:

Aug 30 Pentecost 13: Ex 3:1-15, Ps 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b, Rom 12:9-21, Mt 16:21-28

Sept 6 Pentecost 14: Ex 12:1-14, Ps 149, Rom 13:8-14, Mt 18:15-20

WEEKLY NOTICES, and **SUNDAY SERVICES** for Eastwood are available for viewing on our website. So, if you are away on any Sunday you can catch up at www.euc.org.au

Banking Details for Direct Giving:

BSB: 634 634

Account #: 100020668